

REMARKS

I. Interview Summaries

Applicants thank Examiner Kerr for her time spent reviewing the instant case, and for the very helpful discussions with Dr. Raj Bawa. Examiner Interview Summaries for interviews conducted on March 6, 2006 and April 27, 2006 were received, and Applicants' interview summary records are being submitted herewith.

II. Status of Claims and Claim Amendments

In this Amendment, claim 34 is amended and claims 35-52 are canceled. After entry of this Amendment, claims 34 and 53-54 will be pending.

Specifically, claims 40, 46, and 52 have been incorporated into independent claim 34.

No new matter has been introduced, and thus, entry of this Amendment is requested.

III. Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to address the remaining formalities set forth in the Final Office Action of April 17, 2006, as modified by the Examiner Interview Summary dated May 1, 2006.

No new matter has been introduced.

Withdrawal of these objections is requested.

IV. Claim Rejections

(1) At page 4 of the April 17th Office Action, claims 47-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 47-52 have been canceled, and thus, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

(2) At page 5 of the April 17th Office Action, claims 34-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being enabled by the specification.

The Examiner acknowledges at page 5 that the chimeric polypeptides encoded by the polynucleotides set forth in Figs. 17(b), 19(b), 21(b), and 22(b) are enabled.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite these chimeric polypeptides, which are encoded by SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

(3) At page 12 of the April 17th Office Action, claims 34-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not being adequately described by the specification.

Specifically, the Examiner contends that the limitation “a region that is sufficiently flexible so as to prevent activation of plasminogen by said streptokinase component” is not adequately described.

This rejection is traversed.

The limitation actually reads:

wherein said streptokinase component and said fibrin-binding component are fused via a peptide bond and are linked through a region that is sufficiently flexible so as to prevent activation of plasminogen by said streptokinase component, and so as to allow plasmin-dependent activation of said streptokinase component....

Clear support for this limitation is found in the specification at: page 9, lines 7-25; the paragraph bridging pages 55 and 56; and original claim 1.

Further, the specification clearly describes the structure of the polypeptides encoded by the polynucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11, and 12, which are recited in independent claim 34.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

(4) At pages 14-20 of the April 17th Office Action, claims 34-37, 38, 39, 41-45, 47-48, 50-51, and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over the combination of Malke et al, Dawson et al., Matsuka et al, and Goldstein et al.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite the chimeric polypeptides encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11, and 12.

The prior art does not suggest that a streptokinase component fused to a fibrin-binding component of human fibronectin, as claimed, would have the recited plasmin-dependent characteristics.

Thus, the present invention is non-obvious.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order.

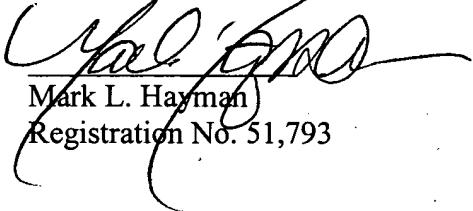
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
Appl No. 09/940,235

Attorney Docket Q89732

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge any unpaid fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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